State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
PO Box 145801
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801
(801) 538-5340 telephone
(801) 359-3940 fax
(801) 538-7223 TTY
www.nr.utah.gov

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Robert L. Morgan
Executive Director
Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

June 20, 2002

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Reclamation Biologist

RE: Site Inspection, Hub Research and Development Company, Bret Clark Mine, S/015/043, Emery County, Utah

Date of Inspection:	June 7, 2002
Time of Inspection:	10:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Conditions:	Clear, 80's
Participants:	Val Payne, Emery County Public Lands Council; Bret Clark, Operator; Dean Nyffeler and Tom Rasmussen, BLM; Paul Baker, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

Our purpose was to confirm observations made on May 9, 2002, by personnel from the state office of the Bureau of Land Management.

Getting to the site:

Take 300 East in Emery south for about one mile. Follow the paved road as it veers to the left (southeast). A little before this road goes into Miller Canyon, there is a dirt road leading south. Take this road to where it dead ends at the mine.

Observations:

The site has three levels. Items and facilities on top of the plateau include a product stockpile (Photo 1), a log cabin office building, a shack, a trailer, a Sears delivery truck, an outhouse, and various other equipment and scrap (Photo 2). The second level is mainly a road, and the portals are on the lower level.

Near the trailer, cabin, and shack, there is a pile of what I consider to be junk and scrap, although Mr. Clark indicated some of the items are still usable. These items are basically consolidated in one place, but anything the operator does not need should be taken away. There are several tires and other debris in the small drainage at the bottom of the outslope. There is some other trash scattered throughout the site, but, for the most part, it is not a serious problem. Nevertheless, this trash should be cleaned up.

Some unlabeled barrels and a car battery are along the second level, and some five-gallon containers are on the portal level.

There is a road leading from the south side of the top of the plateau down to the second and lower levels. It appears that water from the upper level of the facility gathers and goes down this road then continues down the outslope of the pad (Photos 3 and 4). There are several rills coming down the road.

Three portals are on the lower level. One of these (Photo 5) only has fencing material and cribbing to block the way. One of the other portals is partly open so that it would be possible to gain entry. (Photo 6).

There is a berm at the edge of the pad on the lower level, but this berm is breached in front of most or all of the portals making it possible for water to go down the outslope (Photos 7 and 8). It would be difficult to control runoff resulting from precipitation falling directly on the outslopes, but it would be possible to limit the amount of runoff and sediment coming onto these slopes from the pad. Mr. Clark indicated he thought there had been culverts in these areas that would have taken the runoff down the slope without causing erosion, but we were unable to find these culverts.

According to Mr. Clark, mining began in this area in the 1920's, so no topsoil has been saved.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The operator needs to secure the portals. This is critical and needs to be done as soon as possible. In addition, there should be signs alerting the public to any hazardous conditions.

The trash and scrap should be hauled away, including the debris in the drainage below the portals. Anything that will still be needed for the operation needs to stored neatly.

Rule R647-3-107.4 says all deleterious or potentially deleterious material shall be safely removed from the site or left in an isolated or neutralized condition such that adverse environmental effects are eliminated or controlled. The barrels and five-gallon containers appear to contain oil products that could damage the environment, and since the site is not active, there appears to be no reason for them not to be removed. If the operator needs to keep them on site, they should be moved to a location on top of the plateau that does not drain to Miller Canyon. They should also be stored in a way that does not threaten the environment or public safety, and they need to be properly labeled.

The operator should build a berm or a similar containment device to keep runoff from the top of the plateau from going down the road on the south. In addition, Mr. Clark said the upper portion of this road is too steep and will no longer be used for the mining operations, so it should be reclaimed.

There needs to be some method of keeping runoff from the portals area from going directly down the outslope of this pad. If, as the operator indicated, there are culverts in these areas, this would probably be an acceptable alternative. Other possibilities would be to *properly* install silt fences or straw bales or to build a berm that would keep all the runoff on the pad. I prefer the silt fence alternative with a slotted spillway. (Mr. Payne explained this concept to Mr. Clark, but the Division would be happy to provide drawing of this type of installation.)

There are three notices for the mining activity, but the memo from the BLM indicates one plan of operations would be appropriate since there is only one project area. Although all three of these operations are conducted adjacent to each other, they are separate. According to Mr. Clark, the underground workings are not connected. The operations' boundaries are reasonably clear although it would be better if the actual boundaries and limits of responsibility could be agreed upon and marked with t-posts or similar markers in the field. We did not discuss this while on site, but I feel it would help to avoid confusion and misunderstandings in the future.

Other issues noted in the inspection report from the BLM personnel are:

1. Unsecured area with explosives. We saw no explosives on this site, but there were powder magazines on the two adjacent sites.

2. Workings unsafe because the operator has undermined the cliff face. This issue is beyond the purview of the Division and should be addressed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

3. The BLM noted that it appears no topsoil was salvaged, but this is because the site was disturbed prior to any requirements for topsoil salvage.

jb
cc: Bret Clark, Hub Research and Development
Dean Nyffeler, Price BLM
Val Payne, Emery County Public Lands Council
O:\M015-Emery\Clark\final\ins060702brettclark.doc

ATTACHMENT

Photographs
S/015/043
Bret Clark Mine

Photo 1. Product stockpile.

Photo 2. Cabin (center), trailer, shack (behind and to right of cabin), and other equipment.

Photo 3. Road leading to the lower level. Note the erosion from runoff coming from the upper pad.

Photo 4. Another view of the road leading to the lower level.

Photo 5. Fencing and timbers in front of one of the portals.

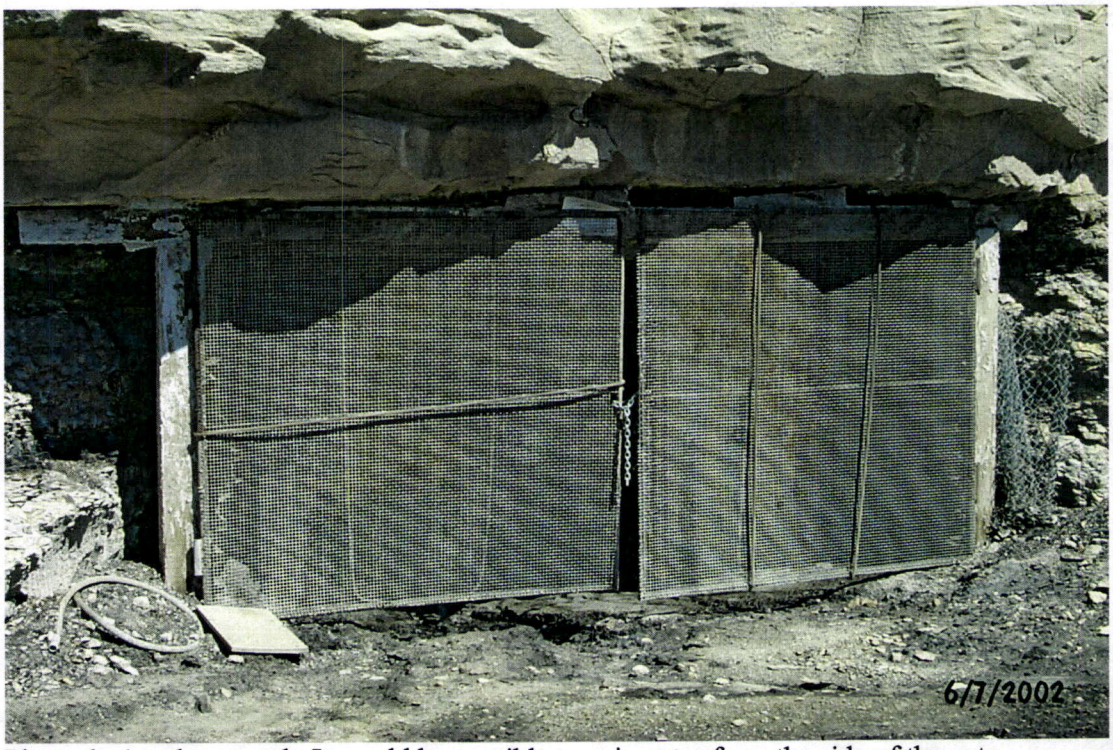

Photo 6. Another portal. It would be possible to gain entry from the side of the gate.

Photo 7. A breach in the berm on the edge of the pad.

Photo 8. Another breach in the berm where runoff can go down the outslope.